

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising,

[[a)] a fluid flow path, comprising a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound and at least one inlet pipe for connection to a fluid supply tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, and at least one outlet pipe for connection to a fluid offtake tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, the point at which the or each inlet pipe and the or each outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over the wound;

[[b)] a fluid reservoir connected by a fluid supply tube to an inlet pipe via optional means for supply flow regulation;

~~e) optionally means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube;~~
and

[[d)] at least one device for moving fluid through the wound dressing;
~~characterised in that it comprises~~

~~e) a means for supplying thermal energy to the fluid in the wound, and~~

[[f)] means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound, such that fluid may be supplied to fill the flowpath from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube (~~optionally via means for supply flow regulation~~) while fluid is aspirated by a device through the fluid offtake tube (~~optionally or as necessary via means for aspirate flow regulation~~).

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises a~~ wherein the means for supplying thermal energy to the fluid in the wound comprises ~~which is~~ a heater and/or conductively heated component of the apparatus flow path in direct conductive contact with the irrigant and/or wound exudate.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises a~~ wherein the means for supplying thermal energy to the fluid in the wound comprises ~~which is~~ a radiative heater of the irrigant fluid and/or wound exudate.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises a~~ wherein the means for supplying thermal energy to the fluid in the wound comprises ~~which is a~~ conductively heated component of the apparatus flow path in direct conductive contact with the irrigant and/or wound exudate, in turn heated by irradiation from a radiative heater.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound ~~often~~ comprises a first device for moving fluid through the wound applied to fluid downstream of and away from the wound dressing, in combination with at least one of a second device for moving fluid through the wound applied to the irrigant in the fluid supply tube upstream of and towards the wound dressing; means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube, and means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube[[:]].

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the aspirate in the fluid offtake tube downstream of the wound dressing is aspirated into a collection vessel, and the first device acts on fluid from the collection vessel.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first device and/or second device is a fixed throughput device, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound also comprises at least one of means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube, and means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first device and/or second device is a variable-throughput device, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound does not comprise other means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube and/or means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound ~~comprises~~ comprises a first device ~~means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound~~ for moving fluid through the wound applied to fluid downstream of and away from the wound dressing, and a second device for moving fluid through the wound applied to the irrigant in the fluid supply tube upstream of and towards the wound dressing.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first device and/or second device is a fixed throughput device, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound also comprises at least one of means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube, and means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first device and/or second device is a variable-throughput device, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound does not comprise other means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube and/or other means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for supplying thermal energy to the fluid in the wound causes the fluid in the wound to reach temperatures between 36° C and 38° C.

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for supply flow regulation in communication with the fluid supply tube.

14. (New) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the fluid reservoir is connected by a fluid supply tube to an inlet pipe via the means for supply flow regulation.

15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for aspirate flow regulation in communication with the fluid offtake tube.